

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1.-20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) A method of inhibiting or preventing *Ehrlichia canis* infection in a subject comprising the steps of:

identifying a subject prior to exposure or suspected of being exposed to or infected with *Ehrlichia canis*; and

administering a composition comprising a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:46 in an amount effective to inhibit *Ehrlichia canis* infection.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein said SEQ ID NO:46 is encoded by a polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO:45.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein said SEQ ID NO:46 is dispersed in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.